AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) An image forming method comprising:

developing an electrostatic latent image formed on an image carrier with a developing device into a toner image using toners;

transferring said toner image onto a recording medium; and

fixing said toner image transferred onto said recording medium to thereby form a recorded image on a recording sheet;

wherein said latent image is developed with said developing device by first and second developing rollers disposed along the moving direction of said image carrier and rotatable in the mutually opposite directions using a two-component magnetic developing agent consisting mainly of toners and magnetic carriers, and said toners are supplied to said latent image on said image carrier by said first and second developing rollers,

wherein the moving direction of said first developing roller is opposite to the moving direction of said image carrier in a developing area, and a peripheral speed ratio (S1 = Vm1 / Vp) between the peripheral speed (Vm1) of said first developing roller and the peripheral speed (Vp) of said image carrier is set in the range of 0.8 - 2.0,

wherein the moving direction of said second developing roller is the same as the moving direction of said image carrier in a developing area, and a peripheral speed ratio (S2 = Vm2 / Vp) between the peripheral speed (Vm2) of said second developing roller and the peripheral speed (Vp) of said image carrier is set in the range of 1.05 - 2.0,

wherein a plurality of shape coefficients SF1, SF2 of said toners of said two-component magnetic developing agent consisting mainly of toners and magnetic carriers are respectively defined according to the following expressions (1) and (2),

$SF1 = (\text{maximum length of diameter})^2 / (\text{area of toner particle}) \times \pi / 4 \times 100$ --- (1)

$SF2 = (\text{peripheral length of projected image})^2 / (\text{area of toner particle}) \times 100 / 4\pi$ --- (2),

said shape coefficients SF1, SF2 respectively satisfying the following conditions:

$120 \leq SF1 \leq 170$

$110 \leq SF2 \leq 130$, and

wherein said developing said electrostatic latent image comprises selecting said toners having said shape coefficients SF1 and SF2 such that an excessive stress is prevented from being applied to said developing agent between said first and second developing rollers and a developing agent distributing member formed between said first and second developing rollers, to restrict an occurrence of photographic fog.

2. (Currently amended) An image forming method comprising:

developing an electrostatic latent image formed on an image carrier with a developing device into a toner image using toners;

transferring said toner image onto a recording medium; and

fixing said toner image transferred onto said recording medium to thereby form a recorded image on a recording sheet,

wherein said latent image is developed with said developing device by one or more sets of first and second developing rollers disposed along the moving direction of said image carrier and rotatable in the mutually opposite directions using a two-component magnetic developing agent consisting mainly of toners and magnetic carriers, and said toners are supplied to said latent image on said image carrier by said one or more sets of first and second developing rollers, and

wherein the moving direction of said first developing roller is opposite to the moving direction of said image carrier in a developing area, and a peripheral speed ratio ($S1 = Vm1 / Vp$) between the peripheral speed ($Vm1$) of said first developing roller and the peripheral speed (Vp) of said image carrier is set in the range of 0.8 - 2.0,

wherein the moving direction of said second developing roller is the same as the moving direction of said image carrier in a developing area, and a peripheral speed ratio ($S2 = Vm2 / Vp$) between the peripheral speed ($Vm2$) of said second developing roller and the peripheral speed (Vp) of said image carrier is set in the range of 1.05 - 2.0,

wherein the shape coefficients SF1, SF2 of said toners of said two-component magnetic developing agent consisting mainly of toners and magnetic carriers are defined according to

following expressions (1) and (2),

$SF1 = (\text{maximum length of diameter})^2 / (\text{area of toner particle}) \times \pi / 4 \times 100$ --- (1)

$SF2 = (\text{peripheral length of projected image})^2 / (\text{area of toner particle}) \times 100 / 4\pi$ ---(2),

said shape coefficients SF1, SF2 respectively satisfying the following conditions:

$120 \leq SF1 \leq 170$

$110 \leq SF2 \leq 130$, and

wherein said developing said electrostatic latent image comprises selecting said toners having said shape coefficients SF1 and SF2 such that an excessive stress is prevented from being applied to said developing agent between said first and second developing rollers and a developing agent distributing member formed between said first and second developing rollers, to restrict an occurrence of photographic fog.

3. (Previously presented) The image forming method of claim 1, wherein the peripheral speed ratio S1 is in a range from 0.9 to 1.9.

4. (Previously presented) The image forming method of claim 1, wherein the peripheral speed ratio S2 is in a range from 1.1 to 1.9.

5-6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously presented) The image forming method of claim 2, wherein the peripheral speed ratio S1 is in a range from 0.9 to 1.9.

8. (Previously presented) The image forming method of claim 2, wherein the peripheral speed ratio S2 is in a range from 1.1 to 1.9.

9-26. (Canceled)

27. (Previously presented) The image forming method of claim 1, wherein said shape coefficients SF1, SF2 respectively satisfy the following conditions:

$130 \leq SF1 \leq 160$

$115 \leq SF2 \leq 130$.

28-33. (Canceled)

34. (New) The image forming method of claim 27, wherein said peripheral speed (Vp) of said image carrier is at least 1800 mm/sec.